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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/699,613	10/30/2003	Arnaud Deleule	02-GR2-210	9932
23334	7590	11/14/2005	EXAMINER	
FLEIT, KAIN, GIBBONS, GUTMAN, BONGINI & BIANCO P.L. ONE BOCA COMMERCE CENTER 551 NORTHWEST 77TH STREET, SUITE 111 BOCA RATON, FL 33487			KIK, PHALLAKA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2825	
DATE MAILED: 11/14/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/699,613

Applicant(s)

DELEULE, ARNAUD

Examiner

Phallaka Kik

Art Unit

2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2003 and 06 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/30/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action responds to the Application and IDS filed on 10/30/2003, and Oath and Declaration filed on 4/6/2004. Claims 1-24 are pending.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

3. **Claims 1-24** are objected to because of the following informalities:

As per **claim 1**, "the version" (line 1) should be --a version-- for proper antecedent basis; --wherein-- should be inserted before "any" line 3) for greater clarification and for proper grammar; "requiring" (line 3) should be --requires-- for proper grammar; "the corresponding" (line 4) should be --a corresponding-- for proper antecedent basis; --given-- should be inserted before "metal" Line 5) for greater clarification.

As per **claims 3-4**, "the number" (lines 1 and 2) should be --a number-- for proper antecedent basis.

As per **claims 7-8**, --,(coma) should be inserted after "cell" (line 1) for proper grammar; "the connections" (line 3) should be --connections-- for proper antecedent basis.

As per **claims 2-12**, the claims are also objected to for incorporating the above errors into the respective claims by claim dependency.

As per **claim 13**, "the version" (line 9) should be --a version-- for proper antecedent basis; "used" (line 9) should be --utilized-- for consistency to provide for proper antecedent basis for "the mask version utilized" or "the mask able to be utilized" (line 11 of claim 13, line 3 of claim 15, line 3 of claim 16).

As per **claims 15-16**, "the number" (lines 1 and 2-3) should be --a number-- for proper antecedent basis; "the given" (line 3) should be --a given-- for proper antecedent basis.

As per **claims 19-20**, --,-- (coma) should be inserted after "cell" (line 1) for proper grammar; "the connections" (lines 3-4) should be --connections-- for proper antecedent basis.

As per **claims 14-24**, the claims are also objected to for incorporating the above errors into the respective claims by claim dependency.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. **Claims 1-24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Reinschmidt et al.** (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0084331).

As per **claims 1,13**, Fig. 1 illustrates the device or integrated circuit for determining the version of the metal mask (i.e., mask revision ID code) utilized (see paragraphs [0036]-[0038], [0001]), in which the device comprises the cells integrated into the metal layer(s) for generating the binary output signal representative of the mask version utilized as being outputted at 108, wherein at least links 102-1, 102-2, 102-3, and 102-4 correspond to cells being integrated on different metal layers (i.e., higher levels of interconnect--paragraph [0038] incorporating the general layout structures of Fig. 7--paragraphs [0037], [0061]--which include the layout structure of Fig. 8, in which each link includes "metal 1", "metal 2", etc., layers--paragraphs [0006]-[0007]), wherein each link or cell includes the first and second voltage sources (i.e., VGND and VPWR) being connected to the input terminals (i.e., 104-0, 104-1) and are connected to the output bus 108 via the conductor wire(s) (i.e., conductive lines in each link) selectively connected through the switches as shown--see paragraphs [0039]-[0042], wherein these selective connections through the combinations of switches in the particular switching positions provides for the conductor wire connected selectively...as a function of the version of metal mask used to produce the metal layer.

As per **claims 2,14**, all of the elements of claims 1 and 13, from which the respective claims depend, are discussed in the rejection of claims 1 and 13 above, wherein the output bus of the cell comprises two conductor wires are also illustrated in

Art Unit: 2825

Fig. 1, corresponding to at least the conductive lines connected to terminals 106-0 and 106-1.

As per **claims 3-4,15-16**, all of the elements of claims 1,2 and 13,14 from which the respective claims depend, are discussed in the rejections of claims 1-2,13-14 above, wherein since a mask ID bit circuit may alternate a resulting potential at a sense node (i.e., output node or bus) as many times as there are links (i.e., cells) (see paragraph [0057]), wherein since n mask ID bit circuits may represent 2^n possible mask versions with any combination of mask layer changes (paragraph [0061] wherein $2n$ is a typo for 2^n as further describes in claim 14), and wherein since there are at least four conductor wires connected to the output bus of each link (see Fig. 5), the number of conductor wires are necessarily a certain proportion to the number of versions of metal mask being represented as being able to be utilized.

As per **claims 5-6,11-12,17-18,23-24**, all of the elements of claims 1,4,16,13, from which the respective claims depend, are discussed in the rejection of claims 1,4 and 13,16 above, wherein the supply terminal and earth (i.e., ground) terminal are also illustrated in Fig. 1 shown as solid dots connected to VGND (ground) and VPWR (power or supply source).

As per **claims 7-8,19-20**, all of the elements of claims 1,4,16,13, from which the respective claims depend, are discussed in the rejection of claims 1,4 and 13,16 above, wherein as shown in Fig. 1, the input terminals as represented by solid dots are placed close to the voltage sources as outputted from the previous cells or directly connected from the VGND and VPWR sources.

As per **claims 9-10,21-22**, all of the elements of the claims are discussed in the rejections of claims 7-8,19-20 and 5-6,11-12,17-18,23-24 above.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Therefore, Applicant is herein requested to consider them carefully in response to this Office Action. In particular, the following prior arts made of record are most relevant:

Kreifels (U.S. Patent No. 5,459,355), especially Fig. 2; col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 11;

Debenham et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0006676), especially Fig. 10 and paragraph [0046];

Tawara et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0013025), especially Figs. 11, 12A, 12B, 13 and paragraphs [0057]-[0062];

Venkatraman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0144582), especially Figs. 1, 5A, 5B, 5C, and paragraphs [0066]-[0076].

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phallaka Kik whose telephone number is 571-272-1895. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8:30AM-7PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Smith can be reached on 571-272-1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to:

571-273-8300



Phallaka Kik
U.S. Patent Examiner
November 5, 2005